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## 2<sup>ND</sup> UNECE PUBLIC-PRIVATE ROUNDTABLE ON GREEN ECONOMY

The UNECE Public-Private Roundtable on Green Economy "Challenges of the Green Economy and Green Societies: Attitudes, Policies, Governance" took place on 24 May, at UNESCO House in Paris. The Roundtable brought together public and private sector leaders to discuss the Challenges of a Green Economy and Green Societies: Attitudes, Policies, Governance.

The discussion called for a very significant change in the attitudes of economic actors and in the incentives that underpin this behaviour.

In the first panel discussion, "On the road to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)", UNECE Executive Secretary, Ján Kubiš, emphasized that "putting a price on pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and on the over-exploitation of a scarce resource must be a central component of any policy mix" to effect this behavioural change for transition to the green economy. He advocated for subsidy reform to correct and realign incentives for the green economy. He highlighted the significant role of the United Nations system and the Bretton Wood institutions in driving forward the social, political and economic change for the green economy, by encouraging the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, developing relevant international standards and guidelines, and promoting good regulatory practice, providing a good basis for setting national regulations and standards.

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development spoke of the need to change unsustainable consumption and production as a precondition for a green economy. This required action on multiple fronts: changes in the ways we produce, in what we consume, in what and how we trade, in government policies, in corporate behaviour, and in our values and thinking. He highlighted the critical role of technology and green infrastructure. Some of the main

challenges in this respect included how to adapt them to specific local and sectoral needs and how to scale them up so as to bring down their costs. Mr. Sha advocated for greater government intervention to help accelerate the technological innovation and diffusion needed, as well as to help mobilize the large-scale long-term financing for green infrastructure investments.

### GREEN economy



Pierre Ducret, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CDC Climat, made an eloquent case in favour of cap-and-trade systems as a means for setting a price on carbon, which was then diffused across the world by means of project mechanisms. He referred to the European cap-and-trade system (ETS) as a success story and a motor of the green economy and recommended the roll-out of similar systems and mechanisms at the international, regional or national levels. At the same time, he cautioned that there was a need for improved supranational governance for their effective oversight and regulation.

Supporting the case for carbon pricing, Michel Rocard, Former Prime Minister of France and Co-President Collegium International, however, took a less optimistic view on cap-and-trade systems and advocated instead for a carbon tax.

In the second panel discussion, "Voices for new pathways", speakers focused on international governance reform to deliver on the green economy and on its ethical dimensions. Danilo Türk, President of Slovenia, delivered a keynote address calling for international governance structures to be strengthened and outlined the main areas for reform. René Passet Professor Emeritus, Sorbonne University made the economic case for sustainable development while Peter Sloterdijk, Philosopher and Rector, Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design, delivered a lecture on the philosophical foundations for building the green economy. Finally, Stéphane Hessel, Ambassador of France and co-founder of Collegium International, in a video address called for urgent action. □

## FIRST GENERATIONS AND GENDER PROGRAMME USERS' CONFERENCE HAILED AS A SUCCESS IN BUDAPEST



Generations and Gender Programme

On 23 and 24 May the Demographic Research Institute of Hungary's Central Statistical Office hosted the first Users' Conference of the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP). The conference—organized in cooperation with the Population unit of UNECE and the consortium board of the GGP—was an opportunity for all researchers who make use of the programme's unique data sets to come together and share their research findings, discuss future research priorities, and evaluate the quality of the data.

The GGP, initiated by UNECE in 2000 and now run by a consortium of 12 leading demographic research organizations, is a two-pillar programme consisting of internationally comparable, theory-driven, large sample panel surveys and a contextual database. In combination these pillars are designed to shed light on the full spectrum of factors influencing contemporary demographic trends, including family-building behaviours, migration, and relationships between generations and between the genders. As the challenges of population ageing, low fertility and the need for intergenerational solidarity become ever greater, the GGP is establishing itself as a key data source for policy-relevant research that can get to the root of these issues. First wave survey data are currently available for 11 countries, and can be accessed via <http://www.ggp-i.org/data/data-access.html>. The contextual database can be found at <http://www.ggp-i.org/contextual-database.html> and currently contains detailed data for 10 countries.

The theme of the conference was 'Demographic and Social Challenges in an Ageing Europe'. Over 100 participants attended and 45 papers were presented, showcasing research on a broad range of topics from well-being of the elderly to survey methodology. The high level of attendance of participants from countries in the east of the UNECE region was especially welcome. An award for the best paper of the conference was presented to a team of researchers from Estonia, Lithuania and Russia (Leen Rahnu, Allan Puur, Vlada Stankūnienė, Ausra Maslauskaitė and Sergei Zakharov), whose paper, "Changing mode of first union formation in the countries of Eastern Europe: the significance of less and more distant demographic divides", compared marriage patterns in seven Eastern European countries with those of four Western European countries, demonstrating the power of the GGP in cross-country comparative studies. □

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## COUNTRIES OF SOUTH CAUCASUS DISCUSS COMMON CHALLENGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

Representatives of the ministries of environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey came together in Tbilisi (Georgia) on 24 and 25 May 2011 for a workshop on building capacity in the application of UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) in the Caucasus. They reviewed their national systems of environmental impact assessment, used to prevent and reduce environmental damage from planned development activities.

The experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia emphasized the common features of their legal systems inherited from the Soviet Union. They also recognized the consequent similarities in the challenges they faced in using these systems to control and limit environmental pollution and harm arising from new development activities, such as industry, waste management and transport networks. The experts did express some concerns about whether methodologies were effective, but institutional capacity and legal ambiguity were generally considered to be more severe constraints on environmental assessment in the South Caucasus.

The government representatives were joined by several experts from national and regional non-governmental organizations. UNECE and the Organization for Security

and Co-operation in Europe arranged the workshop within the Environment and Security Initiative, which brings expertise from several organizations—including UNECE and OSCE—to help countries address the links between the natural environment and human security.

It had been expected that this would be the final workshop focused on the Caucasus, but participants were enthusiastic about using this form of event in the future to learn about more mature environmental assessment systems and the



experiences of countries with more effective systems. In a friendly and frank atmosphere, the participants went on to identify the need for other types of capacity-development activities, such as pilot projects, with the strong involvement of non-governmental organizations. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/eia> or contact Nick Bonvoisin at: [eia.conv@unece.org](mailto:eia.conv@unece.org).

## FACTS & FIGURES LIFE-LONG LEARNING ON THE RISE IN THE UNECE REGION

The share of population in life-long learning has increased in most UNECE countries from 2000 to 2008 (the latest data available). This was a response to increased globalization, fast technological advances and changing labour market that require people to keep their skills up-to-date throughout life.

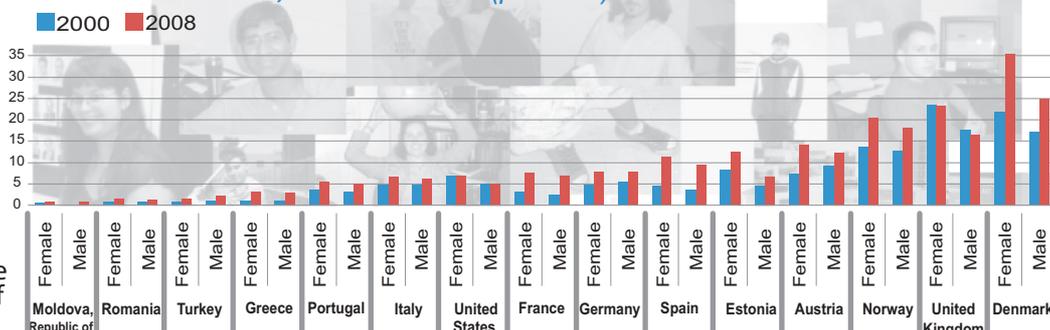
Denmark and Norway experienced a remarkable increase, although they already had a high level of population involved in life-long learning. In several countries with lower level, such as Greece, France and Spain, the share more than doubled in the period.

In most UNECE countries, women are more frequently involved in life-long learning than men are. Relative differences by sex are highest in the Baltic countries where women are about two times as frequently involved as men. The highest level of life-long learning is measured among Danish women, 36 per cent of whom were involved in life-long learning in 2008. Lowest levels are recorded in the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

As in 2000, the involvement in life-long learning in 2008 varied considerably across the region, ranging from 1 to 30 per cent.

The data represent shares of persons aged 25 to 64 who received education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey. They include pursuit of knowledge for both professional and personal development, but exclude self-learning activities. Life-long learning has both economic and social benefits as it enhances social inclusion, increases competitiveness and improves employability. □

Share of population in life-long learning in selected countries, 2000 and 2008 (per cent)



Source: UNECE Statistical Database ([www.unece.org/stats/data](http://www.unece.org/stats/data)).

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